

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6860

Petitions of Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. )  
(VELCO) and Green Mountain Power Corporation )  
(GMP) for a certificate of public good, pursuant to )  
30 V.S.A. Section 248, authorizing VELCO to )  
construct the so-called Northwest Vermont )  
Reliability Project, said project to include: (1) )  
upgrades at 12 existing VELCO and GMP )  
substations located in Charlotte, Essex, Hartford, )  
New Haven, North Ferrisburgh, Poultney, Shelburne, )  
South Burlington, Vergennes, West Rutland, )  
Williamstown, and Williston, Vermont; (2) the )  
construction of a new 345 kV transmission line from )  
West Rutland to New Haven; (3) the reconstruction )  
of a portion of a 34.5 kV and 46 kV transmission line )  
from New Haven to South Burlington; and (4) the )  
reconductoring of a 115 kV transmission line from )  
Williamstown to Barre, Vermont – )

Order entered: 6/6/2008

**ORDER RE APPROVAL OF GMP POLE RELOCATION**

On May 1 and May 16, 2008, Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. ("VELCO") filed a letter informing the Public Service Board ("Board") that a large number of Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP") transmission poles in Shelburne and South Burlington must be temporarily relocated to accommodate construction of the VELCO 115 kV line. VELCO's filing represents that the Department of Public Service concurs with VELCO's plan for relocating the GMP poles. On May 21, 2008, the Board issued a memorandum requiring VELCO to provide additional information regarding the relocation of the GMP poles, and establishing a deadline for any comments in response to that filing.

On May 27, 2008, VELCO filed information regarding the potential impacts on environmental, aesthetic, and historical resources. No comments were filed in response to VELCO's filing.

Although VELCO's May 27 filing lists each of the relevant criteria and provides a summary analysis of the potential impacts, we are not confident that VELCO has properly analyzed the potential impacts. For example, the May 27 filing indicates that the GMP relocation will not impact shorelines because the relocation "is not located within or proximate to shorelines and will therefore not create any impacts to shorelines." The GMP relocation involves the installation of 17 temporary wood poles along the Bay Road area. The Board's decision to place the 115 kV line underground in the area of Bay Road was largely as a result of the project's impact on the shoreline of Lake Champlain. In light of that fact, VELCO's statement regarding the impact of the GMP relocation on shorelines is disturbing.

We are mindful of the construction schedule for this project, but we are concerned with VELCO's analysis of the potential impacts of the GMP relocation. Accordingly, we require VELCO to file a letter with the Board from the Agency of Natural Resources ("ANR") confirming that ANR is satisfied that the project will not unduly impact environmental resources and does not require any additional ANR approvals. If VELCO files such a letter from ANR, it may commence the relocation of the GMP poles.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6th day of June, 2008.

_____	)	
	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
<u>s/ David C. Coen</u>	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/ John D. Burke</u>	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: June 6, 2008

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: [psb.clerk@state.vt.us](mailto:psb.clerk@state.vt.us))*